

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 011324

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PORTUGAL: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL PROPOSES CHANGES

THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL PRESENTED ITS PROPOSAL JANUARY 14 FOR THE REVISED ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT PARTIES PACT WHICH, TO THE CHAGRIN OF THE SOCIALISTS AND THE PPD, INCLUDES BROAD RC VETO POWER OVER NOMINATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND NON-MILITARY LEGISLATION. THE RC PROPOSAL MODIFIES THE EXISTING PACT BY:

--ABOLISHING THE AFM ASSEMBLY AND PROVIDING FOR DIRECT ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT;

--LIMITING RC AUTHORITY TO RULE ON CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS AND ELIMINATING ITS ROLE IN THE CHOICE OF THE CABINET.

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EMBASSY COMMENT: THE RC PLAN REPRESENTS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE POSITIONS OF THE "POLITICAL" AND "OPERATIONAL" MILITARY, BUT REMAINS WEIGHTED TOWARD THE "POLITICALS."

THE RC AGREEMENT, MADE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PARTIES, WILL FORCE THE PS AND THE PPD TO PUSH HARD IN NEXT WEEK'S NEGOTIATIONS FOR REDUCTION OF THE MILITARY'S POLITICAL POWER. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 314, 1/15.)

2. ARGENTINA: MRS. PERON RESHUFFLES CABINET

PRESIDENT PERON ACCEPTED THE RESIGNATIONS OF FOUR CABINET MINISTERS JANUARY 15, INCLUDING ROBLEDO (INTERIOR) AND ARAUZ CASTEX (FOREIGN AFFAIRS), IN WHAT EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PERCEIVES AS HER MOVE TO TAKE THE OFFENSIVE AND STRENGTHEN HER POSITION--ESPECIALLY AGAINST SENATOR LUDER. WHETHER IT WILL HAVE THE DESIRED EFFECT, HOWEVER, AWAITS THE REACTION OF THE MILITARY, WHICH IS NOT LIKELY TO BE PLEASED BY THE MANEUVER. (CONFIDENTIAL) BUENOS AIRES 269, 1/15.) KISSINGER

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